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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from the State of New Hampshire.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Lord, we thank You for touching our Senators' lives. Continue to guide and inspire them. Help them to stand up for truth. Instill in them courage to lead us toward peace and unity. Fill their minds with wisdom and compassion as they strive to give You their best. Protect them from danger. May the desire to do Your will become their highest priority.

Bless America. Turn the hearts of our citizens toward You. Remind us that righteousness exalts a nation but sin destroys.

All this we pray in Your holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 29, 2006.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN E. SUNUNU, a Senator from New Hampshire, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. SUNUNU thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 2 hours, with the first 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee, the next 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee, the next 30 minutes under the control of the majority leader or his designee, and with the final 30 minutes under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, we have set aside 2 hours of morning business in 30-minute increments. At the conclusion of morning business, we will begin the U.S.-Oman free trade agreement, which has a 20-hour debate limitation. However, we are expecting to yield back much of that time. Senators can expect a vote on final passage of that bill when we finish all debate on the measure.

We also will be trying to clear some nominations this afternoon as we finish our work before the Fourth of July recess.

### SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION AND NOTIFICATION ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I will take a few moments to address legislation to create a national sex offender registry and to protect our children from sexual predators.

On May 4, the Senate unanimously passed S. 1086, the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act. This bill, which was introduced by our colleague, Senator HATCH, would create a national sex offender registry and would do what you would suspect, and that is protect our kids from these child predators.

A similar bill has also passed the House of Representatives. Over the last several weeks, the House and Senate have been working diligently to bridge the differences between those two bills. I am pleased with the progress that has been made so far, but I am concerned that the time is running short in the legislative session.

Because time is of the essence, I sent a letter to Chairman SPECTER and Chairman SENSENBRENNER in the House asking them to have such legislation ready for signature by the President no later than July 27, 2006. That is about a month from now. That particular date is in honor of the 25th anniversary of the tragic abduction and murder of Adam Walsh, the 6-year-old son of John and Revé Walsh, who are the founders of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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